

Amendments to the Specification:

*Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 5, line 6 with the following amended paragraph:*

In a preferred embodiment, the nucleic acid sequence encodes: the pro-region of human somatostatin or a functional fragment or sequence variant thereof; the pre-region of human somatostatin or a functional fragment thereof; the prepro-region of human somatostatin or a functional fragment or sequence variant thereof. In a preferred embodiment, the pre-, pro-, or prepro-region differs from wild-type by 1 but not more than 5, 10, 12, [[12,]] 25, 27, 30, 35, 40, 44, 48, 50 amino acid residues.

*Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 9, line 23 with the following amended paragraph:*

In a preferred embodiment, the nucleic acid sequence encodes: the pro-region of human somatostatin or a functional fragment or sequence variant thereof; the pre-region of human somatostatin or a functional fragment thereof; the prepro-region of human somatostatin or a functional fragment or sequence variant thereof. In a preferred embodiment, the pre-, pro-, or prepro-region differs from wild-type by 1 but not more than 5, 10, 12, [[12,]] 25, 27, 30, 35, 40, 44, 48, 50 amino acid residues.

*Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 15, line 8 with the following amended paragraph:*

In a preferred embodiment, the nucleic acid sequence encodes: the pro-region of human somatostatin or a functional fragment or sequence variant thereof; the pre-region of human somatostatin or a functional fragment thereof; the prepro-region of human somatostatin or a functional fragment or sequence variant thereof. In a preferred embodiment, the pre-, pro-, or prepro-region differs from wild-type by 1 but not more than 5, 10, 12, [[12,]] 25, 27, 30, 35, 40, 44, 48, 50 amino acid residues. In a preferred embodiment, the nucleic acid sequence encoding a product, e.g., a small peptide, is a synthetic nucleic acid, e.g., a synthetic nucleic acid which

encodes a small peptide wherein at least one non-common or less common codon of the peptide has been replaced by a common codon.

*Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 19, line 21 with the following amended paragraph:*

In a preferred embodiment, the nucleic acid sequence encodes: the pro-region of human somatostatin or a functional fragment or sequence variant thereof; the pre-region of human somatostatin or a functional fragment thereof; the prepro-region of human somatostatin or a functional fragment or sequence variant thereof. In a preferred embodiment, the pre-, pro-, or prepro-region differs from wild-type by 1 but not more than 5, 10, 12, [[12,]] 25, 27, 30, 35, 40, 44, 48, 50 amino acid residues.

*Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 24, line 24 with the following amended paragraph:*

In a preferred embodiment, the nucleic acid sequence encodes: the pro-region of human somatostatin or a functional fragment or sequence variant thereof; the pre-region of human somatostatin or a functional fragment thereof; the prepro-region of human somatostatin or a functional fragment or sequence variant thereof. In a preferred embodiment, the pre-, pro-, or prepro-region differs from wild-type by 1 but not more than 5, 10, 12, [[12,]] 25, 27, 30, 35, 40, 44, 48, 50 amino acid residues.

*Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 30, line 4 with the following amended paragraph:*

In a preferred embodiment, the nucleic acid sequence encodes: the pro-region of human somatostatin or a functional fragment or sequence variant thereof; the pre-region of human somatostatin or a functional fragment thereof; the prepro-region of human somatostatin or a functional fragment or sequence variant thereof. In a preferred embodiment, the pre-, pro-, or prepro-region differs from wild-type by 1 but not more than 5, 10, 12, [[12,]] 25, 27, 30, 35, 40, 44, 48, 50 amino acid residues. In a preferred embodiment, the nucleic acid sequence encoding a

product, e.g., a small peptide, is a synthetic nucleic acid, e.g., a synthetic nucleic acid which encodes a small peptide wherein at least one non-common or less common codon of the peptide has been replaced by a common codon.

*Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 34, line 4 with the following amended paragraph:*

In a preferred embodiment, the nucleic acid sequence encodes: the pro-region of human somatostatin or a functional fragment or sequence variant thereof; the pre-region of human somatostatin or a functional fragment thereof; the prepro-region of human somatostatin or a functional fragment or sequence variant thereof. In a preferred embodiment, the pre-, pro-, or prepro-region differs from wild-type by 1 but not more than 5, 10, 12, [[12,]] 25, 27, 30, 35, 40, 44, 48, 50 amino acid residues.

*Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 37, line 26 with the following amended paragraph:*

In a preferred embodiment, the nucleic acid sequence encodes: the pro-region of human somatostatin or a functional fragment or sequence variant thereof; the pre-region of human somatostatin or a functional fragment thereof; the prepro-region of human somatostatin or a functional fragment or sequence variant thereof. In a preferred embodiment, the pre-, pro-, or prepro-region differs from wild-type by 1 but not more than 5, 10, 12, [[12,]] 25, 27, 30, 35, 40, 44, 48, 50 amino acid residues.

*Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 42, line 9 with the following amended paragraph:*

In a preferred embodiment, the nucleic acid sequence encodes: the pro-region of human somatostatin or a functional fragment or sequence variant thereof; the pre-region of human somatostatin or a functional fragment thereof; the prepro-region of human somatostatin or a functional fragment or sequence variant thereof. In a preferred embodiment, the pre-, pro-, or

prepro-region differs from wild-type by 1 but not more than 5, 10, 12, [[12,]] 25, 27, 30, 35, 40, 44, 48, 50 amino acid residues.

*Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 47, line 14 with the following amended paragraph:*

In a preferred embodiment, the nucleic acid sequence encodes: the pro-region of human somatostatin or a functional fragment or analog thereof; the pre-region of human somatostatin or a functional fragment thereof; the prepro-region of human somatostatin or a functional fragment or analog thereof. In a preferred embodiment, the pre-, pro-, or prepro-region differs from wild-type by 1 but not more than 5, 10, 12, [[12,]] 25, 27, 30, 35, 40, 44, 48, 50 amino acid residues.

*Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 52, line 1 with the following amended paragraph:*

In a preferred embodiment, the nucleic acid sequence encodes: the pro-region of human somatostatin or a functional fragment or sequence variant thereof; the pre-region of human somatostatin or a functional fragment thereof; the prepro-region of human somatostatin or a functional fragment or sequence variant thereof. In a preferred embodiment, the pre-, pro-, or prepro-region differs from wild-type by 1 but not more than 5, 10, 12, [[12,]] 25, 27, 30, 35, 40, 44, 48, 50 amino acid residues.